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made by the United States Bureau of Labor and the Johnstown investigation by the Children's Bureau. In addition the results of a hitherto unpublished study are given to the public. This manuscript study, which is drawn upon largely by the author, is based upon a house-to-house canvass in four wards of Boston made in the academic years 1910-11 and 1911-12 by a group of students in the research department of the School of Social Workers. Of this investigation the author had personal direction and he was also responsible for its final form. Unfortunately the results of the later investigations of the Children's Bureau were not yet available at the time Mr. Hibbs prepared his articles.

The study, which is statistical, is an inquiry into the causes of infant deaths. The causes are complicated and some of them are not readily susceptible of statistical measurement. Moreover, the data collected in the United States are at best meager and leave some phases of the subject untouched. In the absence of adequate American material the author introduces European data. No striking conclusions are reached. Like the English students of infant mortality he arrives at the conclusion that poverty and ignorance are chiefly responsible for infant deaths and that such factors as the employment of the mother, the age of the mother, the size of the family, housing conditions, and the milk supply are only secondary.

Of the six chapters, the first, which treats of the decline in the infant death rate during recent years, has the least satisfactory statistical basis, owing to the fact that the registration of births is too late a development to afford a basis for the computation of infant mortality rates over a period of years for a representative proportion of our population. This part of the study is therefore based largely on calculations per 1,000 living population under one year of age, and the conclusions that the infant death rate has declined in the United States more rapidly than the adult rate but less rapidly than the rate for older children are stated, very properly, as probabilities.

MARY LOUISE MARK.

MCCAFFREE, C. *Third biennial report of the commissioner of immigration for the state of South Dakota.* (Pierre: The Commissioner. 1916. Pp. 32.)

WENTZ, A. R. *The beginnings of the German element in York County, Pennsylvania.* (Gettysburg, Pa.: The author. 1916. Pp. 217. \$1.)

Report on child mortality. Cd. 8496. (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office. 1917. Pp. 116. 1s.)

Social Problems and Reforms

Social Diagnosis. By MARY E. RICHMOND. (New York: Russell Sage Foundation. 1917. Pp. 511. \$2.00.)

"Social diagnosis may be described as the attempt to make as exact a definition as possible of the situation and personality

of a human being in some social need—of his situation and personality, that is, in relation to the other human beings upon whom he in any way depends or who depend upon him, and in relation also to the social institutions of his community” (p. 357). This definition corrects a possible misunderstanding of the too inclusive title. The present book is a detailed study of social case work, potentially for all cases but more specifically for those treated by the three institutions now emphasizing such diagnosis—the charity society, the juvenile court, and the hospital clinic. In a brief sketch of “Beginnings” the author shows that expert social diagnosis is of very recent origin and that even now it is far from such standards and methods as would guarantee an acceptance in comparison with diagnosis in law or medicine. But in proportion to its development its value is being recognized and its importance assured.

The director of the Charity Organization Department of the Russell Sage Foundation has here undertaken to explain the principles and technique so far developed, in order that the rapidly increasing number of workers can have a more comprehensive guide for their own activity and for further improvement in their profession. The book is the product of many experts of wide experience: social agencies in different cities were asked to send in records, criticisms, and suggestions, many of which are given in the text and appendices; conferences were held in regard to cases and methods; two workers were engaged to study original case records in five cities for a year; parts of the book were directly prepared by associates in the Foundation; and the valuable bibliography gives the source of much of the illustrative material used. But Miss Richmond deserves the great credit for conceiving the need and character of such a book, for organizing the data and opinion from a multitude of sources, and for interpreting the principles cautiously as the tentative beginnings of a science in the making.

Part I deals with Social Evidence and the inferences to be drawn therefrom. Convinced that many students fail to realize different degrees of validity in evidence from various sources, the author has tried to meet this need by explanations and illustrations from case work itself and from law and medicine. The summaries at the end of each chapter and the later repetition of the main points render unnecessary some of the detail in the initial discussion. The author wishes especially to urge upon

workers the obligation for a self-critical search for the weak or missing links in one's own diagnosis. She also lays emphasis upon the need for imaginative insight and human sympathy, upon diagnosis as a means to treatment and not as an end in itself, and upon the final test of results in the improvement in the particular situation concerned.

Part II, Processes Leading to Diagnosis, is the main part of the book, and the most valuable. It consists of a study of the sources to be used in case work—the family, relatives, physicians and hospitals, schools, employers, documents, neighbors, social agencies, etc. These chapters make a noteworthy contribution, that on the Family Group representing unusual insight. A chapter on Comparison and Interpretation summarizes and applies part I, and the concluding chapter states the Underlying Philosophy in regard to individual differences and the “wider self”—the social relations which largely make an individual what he is and what he may be. It is surprising that the author does not give more prominence to the influence of heredity. Constant reference is made throughout the book to the necessity of acquaintance with the laws applicable to or needed for a given case; and the interdependence of case work and social reform is well emphasized:

There is, in fact, more resemblance than either would admit between the mental habits of the case worker who contentedly treats one individual after another, one family after another, without giving a thought to the civic and industrial conditions that hedge them about, and the mental habits of the reformer who is sure that the adoption of his particular reform will render all social case work unnecessary. Both ignore the complexity, the great diversity, of the materials with which they are attempting to deal (p. 369).

Part III, Variations in the Processes, consists of typical applications, in the form of questionnaires to be kept in mind by the social worker but to be used in a given case only for their “suggestion of alternative situations and explanations.” These questionnaires represent the experience of many experts and will probably set the standard for a great deal of such work in the future.

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NEW BOOKS

BASCOM, E. L. and MENDENHALL, D. R. *List of books and pamphlets on child welfare.* Reprinted from *Wisconsin Library Bulletin*,